

ASHBORNE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

*For the Year 1905.*

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*Ashborne:*

*Joseph Osborne, Printer, "News" Office.*



TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
ASHBORNE.

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**Annual Report for the Year 1905.**

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ended December 31st, 1905.

The population at the middle of the year estimated from the total at the census of 1901 is 4137, which is 24 less than the "natural increase" in population, which is estimated by the excess of births over deaths registered during the year.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during 1905 was 114, 63 males and 51 females, giving a birth-rate of 27·5 per thousand inhabitants. Both the total number of births and the birth-rate are less than in 1904, in which year there were 128 births, with a birth-rate of over 31.



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**Death Rate.** During the year 56 deaths were registered in Ashborne, 12 in the Ashborne Union Infirmary (7 of which belonged to the Urban District of Ashborne), and 9 in the Cottage Hospital (4 of which belonged to the Urban District), making a total of 67 for the Urban District. This is 2 less than in 1904, and is equal to a death-rate of 16·2 per thousand inhabitants, as against 16·7 for 1904.

The Infantile Mortality (that is, deaths occurring among children less than 12 months old), again shows a gratifying diminution, and is the lowest for the last four years, and considerably below the average of the last 10 years. There were 11 deaths of infants under one year of age during 1905, as against 13 in 1904, equivalent to a rate of 96·5 per thousand births in 1905, and 101·5 in 1904.

The causes of death among infants were as follows—

Prematurity	...	3
Pneumonia	...	3
Convulsions	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	1
Stomatitis	...	1
Meningitis	...	1
		—
		11
		—

**Zymotic  
Diseases.**

The mortality from the seven zymotic diseases (viz., small-pox, measles, scarlatina, diphtheria, whooping cough, typhoid fever, and diarrhœa), was 5, viz., 3 from typhoid fever, 1 from measles, and 1 from diarrhœa, which is equal to an annual rate of 1·2 per thousand of population. This is slightly above the average.



## Phthisis.

There were only 3 deaths from phthisis (as against 7 in 1904), equal to an annual rate of  $\cdot 72$  per thousand of population.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES (other than phthisis), accounted for 11 deaths as in 1904, viz., 5 from bronchitis, and 6 from pneumonia, giving a death-rate of  $2\cdot 6$  per thousand of population.

HEART DISEASE caused 5 deaths equal to an annual rate of  $1\cdot 2$  per thousand of population, the same number and rate as in 1904.

CANCER was responsible for 4 deaths (one less than in 1904), which is equivalent to an annual rate of  $\cdot 9$  per thousand of population.

There were no deaths from influenza or small-pox.

Notifications  
of Infectious  
Disease.

Apart from an epidemic of typhoid (enteric) fever, there has been very little infectious disease during the year. There were only six cases of scarlet fever (as against 14 in 1904), 4 of erysipelas (as against 5 in 1904), and 1 of diphtheria, as in 1904. There have been however 32 cases of enteric fever, the first cases in the district since 1902.

The total number of infectious cases notified was 43 in 1905, as against 20 in 1904, and 77 in 1903.

During the progress of the epidemic of enteric fever, I prepared for the Sanitary Committee three special reports, the chief points of which are embodied in the following brief account of the outbreak.

The first cases notified were 4 in number, and occurred in Bradley's yard, Compton, in the month of May. There were no fresh notifications until July 17,





except a single case on July 4, occurring in one of the same houses as the cases first notified. But from July 17th to the 22nd, 17 new cases were reported in widely separated parts of the town, and the outbreak threatened to assume alarming proportions. At this stage it was discovered that all infected houses derived their milk supply from one of two sources, and further investigation showed that one of the sources was contaminated from a polluted well used for dairy purposes, and the other from the use of water stored in uncovered troughs exposed to contamination. This view of the cause of the outbreak was upheld by the result of the measures taken to exclude, and prevent the use of the polluted water. No fresh cases occurred after July 22nd, except those due to direct infection of other members of the family in houses already infected, or of those attending upon the sick. There has been no case at all since the middle of October, and it is hoped that the prompt measures taken not only in dealing with the original sources of infection, but in carrying out thorough measures of disinfection among the sick, and in arranging for their skilled nursing by a nurse who was specially procured for the purpose, will have once more completely freed the District from the disease.

Three of the cases unfortunately had a fatal result.

During the prevalence of the epidemic, which occurred in the hot dry weather, the yards and streets of the town were systematically watered with disinfectants.

The town water was analysed, and found to be pure and free from any organic contamination.



**Waterworks.** The boring operations at the Waterworks, mentioned in the report for 1904, were completed during 1905, and an additional yield of water has been obtained.

**Rainfall for 1905.** The Waterworks Inspector has again kindly supplied me with the figures showing the rainfall during the year. The actual rainfall and the number of rainy days were both slightly in excess of 1904.

	Total depth in inches.	Rainy days.
January	1·52	17
February	1·12	15
March	4·42	22
April	2·61	22
May	·55	7
June	2·67	13
July	2·69	12
August	4·66	17
September	1·99	15
October	2·32	15
November	4·08	21
December	·85	14
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Totals	29·48	190
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**Sewage Disposal.** This matter is now before the Local Government Board, and the Council are awaiting the decision of that Board as to the site selected for the outfall works.

**Pulmonary Consumption.** On the recommendation of the County Medical Officer of Health, printed cards with a caution against spitting were circulated and posted throughout the District.



**Midwives' Act, 1902.** Under the provisions of this Act, any woman who had attended cases of child-birth, could, upon making application to the Central Midwives' Poard before April 1st, 1905, and upon production of the necessary certificates from a medical man, be registered as a midwife. Only two women in the Urban District of Ashborne availed themselves of this privilege. The Public Health Committee of the Derbyshire County Council is the Local Supervising Authority for this district. They exercise general supervision over all midwives practising within their area, investigate charges of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct, and have the power to suspend midwives from practice.

**Factories and Workshops.** During the year the Factories, Workshops, Bake-houses, Common Lodging-houses, Slaughter-houses, and Dairies have been regularly inspected, and certain minor defects have been promptly remedied on the service of notices.

**Sanitary Inspector's Report.** The report of the Sanitary Inspector shows that during the year 88 informal notices were served by the Inspector, and 32 by the Authority, and that in 118 instances nuisances were abated. In all 483 inspections were made.

• In cases of infectious disease thorough disinfection of the premises has been carried out by the inspector, and in many cases disinfectants were supplied. There has been a weekly inspection of meat, fish, fruit, etc., in the markets and shops.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**Ernest A. Sadler,**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

*January 24, 1906.*

